

ABSTRACT

Message Signalling in a Synchronous Transmission Apparatus

5 The invention relates to message signalling in a
synchronous transmission apparatus using redundant pointer
bits as a signalling channel within the apparatus. The
preferred embodiment uses one or more of the new data flag
(NDF) pointer bits as a signalling channel. The invention
10 has particular, but not exclusive, application in the
field of performance monitoring in a path protected
telecommunications network, where the pointer bit
signalling channel is used to communicate between data
ports which transmission path is selected.

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